



**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2020
MINUTES**

Call to Order – Chairman Etheridge called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 P.M in order to enter into Executive Session.

Officials Present: Chairman Henry Etheridge, Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark, Councilman D. Thomas Johnson, Councilman L. Martin Sauls, IV, Councilman Dr. Curtis Brantley

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Acting Clerk to Council Tisha L. Williams, County Attorney David Tedder, Administrative Services Director Kimberly Burgess

Emergency Ordinance Electronic Meetings

David Tedder - 1st and Final Reading of an Emergency Ordinance to Provide Procedures and Standards for Electronic Meetings During the COVID-19 Health Emergency for County Council, Modifying Meeting Schedules of County Boards and Commissions
During the State of Emergency, Extending the County Declaration of a State of Emergency, and Emergency Matters Related Thereto.

Upon Motion by Councilman Johnson as Councilman Brantley seconds to enter into Council Executive Session to discuss matters as listed on the posted Agenda, the Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Executive Session

Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by a public body -- Section 30-4-70(a)(5) – Jasper Ocean Terminal (JOT), Prospect Update

Vice Chairwoman Clark moves and Councilman Sauls seconds the motion to return to Open Session. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Return to Open Session at approximately 6:35 P.M.

Chairman Etheridge asked if there are any matters to be brought forward from Executive Session.

Nothing coming out of Executive Session.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice Chairwoman Clark

Invocation given by Chairman Etheridge

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chairwoman Clark moves as Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion to approve the Agenda. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting.

Approval of the Minutes – March 16, 2020

Vice Chairwoman Clark moved to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2020 as Councilman Sauls seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes to approve the Minutes.

Presentations and Proclamations

Chairman Henry Etheridge – Presentation of Proclamation to Sun City 25th Year in Jasper County

Chairman Etheridge presented the framed Proclamation to Sun City in Celebration of it's 25th Year in Jasper County and stated that it will be sent to Sun City as soon as possible, as we manage during these difficult time. The Proclamation so read: *Whereas Sun City Hilton Head will Celebrate it's 25th Anniversary during May 13th through May 16th, 2020 and Whereas Sun City Hilton Head has achieved National recognition by 55places.com, for the past two consecutive years as the Beas of over 2,000 55+ Communities across the U.S; third place as one of 100 Most Popular Communities, and the top spot as one of the Best-Selling Communities, and Whereas Sun City Hilton Head has received over a dozen awards for its communications publications from the National Mature Media Awards and 3 Excel Awards for its SunSations Magazine, Hurricane Preparedness Guide and Newsletters, and WHEREAS, Sun City Hilton Head residents provide significant hours to volunteer with organizations such as Read Indeed, Bluffton Self Help, Second Helpings, Backpack Buddies, Wreaths Across America, Santa for Seniors, Bags of Hope, The Independence Fund, and many others, and WHEREAS, Sun City Hilton Head residents serve on local School Boards & County/City Boards and Committees, as well as Boards of large local companies providing services to the Association, and WHEREAS, Sun City Hilton Head residents contribute significantly to the local economies of the area, and WHEREAS, Sun City Hilton Head is a member and strong support of local Chambers of Commerce and Coalitions, and WHEREAS, Sun City Hilton Head residents have been elected to and serve on local government positions.*

Now therefore be it resolved that Jasper County Council has designated May 13th through May 20th, 2020 as "Sun City Hilton Head Days" in Jasper County.

Chairman Etheridge congratulated Sun City and stated that he hopes that they would have the opportunity to Celebrate once things get back to normal.

Open Floor to the Public

Per ordinance 08-17 any citizen of the County may sign to speak before the Council on matters pertaining to County Services and Operations. Presentations will be limited to three (3) minutes and total public input will be limited to 30 minutes.

Chairman Etheridge opens the floor to the Public.

Acting Clerk to Council Tisha L. Williams advised the Chairman that no one signed up for Public Comment via email or mail.

Chairman Etheridge closes the floor.

Resolutions

David Tedder – Resolution to Approve April 2020 as Fair Housing Month for Jasper County

Mr. Tedder stated that in 1968 a Fair Housing Law was passed and in Jasper County there is an Annual Publication in the paper that shows support against segregation in Fair housing across the County, in which case this Resolution allows Administration to post such Ad and Mr. Tedder is requesting approval of the Resolution.

Councilman Sauls move to approve the Resolution as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor. Motion Passes.

David Tedder – Resolution to Approve the updated 2020 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEOP)

Mr. Tedder stated that the County also supports Equal Opportunity and have a plan that was adopted in 2005 that's continued to move forward. This Resolution ratifies the previous Equal Opportunity Plan and renews it subject to the County updating some of the figures from the 2020 Census. Mr. Tedder stated the Administration request the approval of this Resolution as well.

Councilman Sauls move to approve the Resolution as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. All Members present voting in favor. Motion Passes.

Ordinances

Lisa Wagner – Public Hearing and 2nd Reading of an Ordinance to create within the Zoning Ordinance of Jasper County an additional Residential Zoning District known as Residential, Ridgeland Lakes (RRL), as amended, so as to amend Article 5:1 to establish the purpose of the RRL District; amend Article 6:1 – Table 1, to define the uses allowed within the RRL District; amend Article 7:3, to provide criteria for lot area, yard, setback, and density within the RRL District

Ms. Wagner stated that the purpose of this Ordinance is for rezoning specific to Ridgeland Lakes Subdivision and conformity to the Zoning Regulations. Preliminary Approval was granted in the 2002 for the Ridgeland Lakes Subdivision which consisted of 148 lots. Phase I had two plats, one was in April 2003 and the other in August 2004 when the infrastructure was completely built. The final plat for Phase II was approved June 2005 and the final Plat for Phase III was approved during the time of the Joint Planning Agreement with the Town of Ridgeland and there were any houses built in Phase III. This Ordinance would improve the lot sizes and the setbacks that occurred during Phase III.

Chairman Etheridge opens the floor to the Public.

No one signed up for Public Comment of Agenda Item.

Chairman Etheridge closes the Floor to Public Hearing

Vice Chairwoman Clark moves to accept the 2nd Reading of the Ordinance as Councilman Sauls seconds the Motion. Councilman Johnson asked Ms. Wagner who would be responsible for the bond? Ms. Wagner stated that was a good question and that Mr. Gray still owns the road there, but haven't deed it over to the POA. Mr. Tedder stated that he could work with Ms. Wagner to have more information regarding the upkeep of the road by 3rd Reading. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting

Lisa Wagner – 3rd Reading of an Ordinance to amend the Official Zoning Map of Jasper County so as to transfer a property bearing Jasper County Tax Map Number 040-00-02-015 from the Community Commercial Zone to the General Commercial Zone on the Jasper County Official Zoning Map.

Ms. Wagner stated that this property is located at 11578 Speedway Blvd, the request was to have the property rezoned from Community Commercial to General Commercial and the property also lies between highway corridor overlay district and is requesting approval to amend the Zoning Map.

Councilman Brantley moves and Councilman Johnson seconds the motion. All Members voting in favor and Motions passes.

New Business

Andrew Fulghum – Knowles Island Fishing Pier

Mr. Fulghum stated that he placed a memo in Council's packet to discuss the Knowles Island Fishing Pier. The Knowles Island Fishing Pier was constructed by a number of funding sources with one being the largest, was a grant from the South Carolina Dept of Natural Resources. In part of receiving that grant, one of the stipulations was that the Pier stay open 24 hours a day and over the years, it's gone back and forth about whether to have it open 24 hours a day given the activities that the Sheriff has presented to Council before. After working with several Residents and DNR to try to figure out the best options available for the Pier, some options worked for them and some did not. However, they were receptive to reducing the restrictions that were put in place and recommended what other facilities have done, which is to open at least 1 hour early and through 1 hour past sunset. Mr. Fulghum is looking for some policy direction as he's currently researching the best options. Councilman Brantley inquired what would be the purpose of reducing the hours? Mr. Fulghum stated that the purpose would be to limit the after-hours activities that have nothing to do with fishing and crabbing. Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that she would like for Mr. Fulghum to stay within the County's guidelines as there should be plenty of time for many to fish even in time seasonal time changes. Councilman Johnson would like to look into surveillance via camera in addition to limited or limiting access to the pier as it may address the general complaint certain activities. Councilman Sauls did not have comment. Chairman Etheridge stated that Mr. Fulghum would need to go and research further and Council will come back together with Mr. Fulghum to discuss further.

Andrew Fulghum – Acceptance of Grant from US Dept of Commerce Economic Development Administration – US Route 278

Mr. Fulghum stated he provided a packet of information to Council via their e-books regarding the grant that Council worked on some time ago and now the grant has been received. Mr. Fulghum stated that the grant is for \$1,125,000 and the Council pledged to use a portion of the Transportation Sales Tax to match that grant which was \$750,000. The previous work was paid by the Jasper County Transportation Committee and it was designed that Council would return the bidding and design portion back over to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Fulghum advised that some paper work has started to roll in and he would like to approve motion to accept grant from USDA. Councilman Sauls moved as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the motion. Councilman Brantley inquired from Mr. Fulghum where the Transportation Committee will receive funds to give to the County. Mr. Fulghum answered stating that the funds comes from Jasper Sales Tax, so in other words the funds go to Columbia and is then redistributed back to the Transportation Committee. Councilman Brantley advised he understood. Chairman Etheridge inquired where the road goes, Mr. Fulghum answered that the scope of the project will be widening the road in front of the EMS building and Polaris Tech. Councilman Sauls congratulated Mr. Fulghum and County Staff for working hard on the grant and for receiving it, adding that it is a huge deal. Councilman Johnson would like for the engineers to go to all lengths to preserve Oak trees. Chairman Etheridge stated that residents in the County have had discussions about the preservation of the Oak Trees. All Members present voting in favor, motion passes.

Andrew Fulghum – Presentation of Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual Rewrite Proposals

Mr. Fulghum stated that the Original policy was written back in 2008 and a lot of changes have happened since then. Mr. Fulghum stated that the County needs a comprehensive rewrite and have received a copy of quotes from two different Law Firms and one of those firms was the Law firm that was originally used for Labor Law Status are estimating a cost between \$3,000 - \$5,000 to perform the work. Mr. Fulghum would like to request Council approves a not to exceed \$5,000 in order for Administration to have the work completed. Councilman Johnson moves as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion. All Members voting in favor. Motion approved.

Kim Burgess – Presentation of LWCFG Grant – Robertsville/Grays/Tutens Landing Improvements

Ms. Burgess seeks approval from County to allow the County Administrator to accept the Amendment to the LWCFG Grant which will allow the County to complete the restrooms for Robertsville and Grays Parks as it will bring water and sewer to both park. Councilman Brantley inquired if the County has the funds to match the grant, and Ms. Burgess responded yes as Senator Margie Bright-Matthews provided \$200,000 in the previous Budget Year to allow for such matching. Councilman Sauls moves to accept as Councilman Brantley seconds the Motion. All members present voting in favor. Motion passes.

Kim Burgess – Presentation of Bids for Church Rd and Stiney Rd Neighborhood Revitalization Demotion Project

Ms. Burgess stated that the Lowcountry Council of Governments advertised on behalf of Jasper County seeking steel bids and demolition of structures in the Church and Stiney Rd area, which is

part of the CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. Since the date of advertisement, two of the Bids turned out to be non-compliant and the third bid was significantly over budget, therefore Ms. Burgess is requesting approval for the County reject all bids received and to rebid as soon as possible. Councilman Johnson moves as Councilman Sauls seconds the motion. Chairman Etheridge stated that Council's been waiting a long time for this project and thought there would be a lot more bids. Ms. Burgess stated that there were originally eleven on list but only those three were received. All Members present voting in favor. Motion passes to rebid.

Old Business

Council Members' Comments

Councilman Johnson stated that he doesn't have anything special to add except to ask everyone to be safe and to consider of your neighbors and remember to look out for yourself. Also Council is striving to make the Virtual Meetings as much like the physical meeting and was saddened that there weren't any public Comments, but hopes that in the future there would be more.

Councilman Brantley stated that his prayer is that no matter what damage the Corona Virus may cause or what loss we may experience from it, that there would be nothing so great that we cannot redeem and restore ourselves in such a way.

Councilman Sauls stated that he would like to thank Mr. Fulghum and the Staff of Jasper County for the jobs that they do at the office as well as at home and that he's praying for the families, Staff, small business owners as he knows that this is a challenging time and that many are having to adapt to this situation as this could be the new normal. Councilman Sauls asks that everyone continue to support local business and continue to be safe and follow procedure to reduce the spread of the virus. Councilman Sauls also thanked Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS personnel and all Health Care workers adding that he's had frequent talks with Coastal Carolina CEO who advised that they are well provided for by the State of South Carolina. Councilman Sauls also asked everyone to keep all Health Care workers in your prayers.

Vice Chairwoman Clark stated that she echoes the sentiments of Councilman Sauls, adding that many should take the Corona Virus very serious, and that people should remain in their homes and not mingle so much as there's nothing out there but the threat of contracting the Corona Virus. Vice Chairman stated that commends Governor Cuomo on standing up for those fighting the virus, adding that many in the County if they are going to go out to be wear face masks as you never know where death is and she had another nephew that passed away on Saturday and just truly sad it is.

Chairman Etheridge stated that he agreed with everything that's been said by Council regarding the Corona Virus and encouraged everyone to keep looking up as GOD is still in control, adding that he said it in his prayer as GOD has been taken out of so many things and GOD is going to get back into those things. Chairman Etheridge ask that everyone pray for him as he prays for everyone

and that we all ought to pray for one another. Chairman Etheridge also thanked the first responders, those who work in the hospitals and those who come in contact with us every day. Chairman Etheridge also thanked the County Staff, those are working from adding that he only heard one complaint and that was why the doors weren't open and he settled that complaint.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Fulghum stated that he had one thing to add as Staff is trying to wrap their heads about the financial strain of this pandemic and going over expenditures and that he also appreciates everything that was said about the Staff and First Responders. Hopefully he'll have more information at the next Council Meeting as far as what the County is looking at financially.

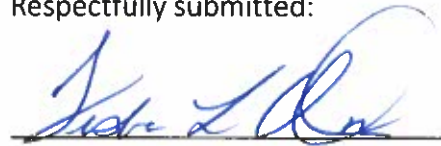
County Attorney David Tedder reminded Council that the next scheduled Meeting is set for April 20, 2020 adding that there may or may not be a Meeting as we continue to monitor all things concerning the current pandemic.

Adjourn

Councilman Sauls moves as Vice Chairwoman Clark seconds the Motion to adjourn. The Motion passes with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Meeting Adjourned

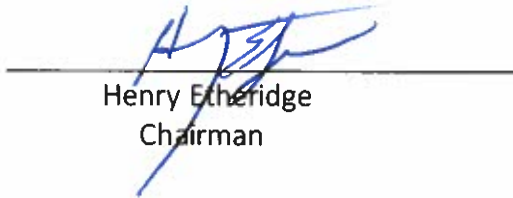
Meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Tisha L. Williams
Acting Clerk to Council

Approved:



Henry Etheridge
Chairman